

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Holders of the Food Supplement Certification Manual

FROM: Barbara J. Van Burgel, Director, Office for Family Independence

DATE: July 7, 2011

**SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLEMENT CERTIFICATION MANUAL
10-144 Chapter 301 (OFI FOOD SUPPLEMENT RULE #171A)
Adjustment of Food Supplement Standard Utility Allowance**

Attached to this memorandum please find rule statement release(s) as described below:

SUBJECT: Adjust the current FSUA to **\$634** as of **August 1, 2011**

CONTENT: See attached memo to Program Administrators, Supervisors and Other Interested Parties

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Program Administrators, Supervisors and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Karen L. Curtis, Food Supplement Program Manager

DATE: July 7, 2011

**SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLEMENT CERTIFICATION MANUAL
10-144 Chapter 301 (OFI FOOD SUPPLEMENT RULE #171A)
Adjustment of Food Supplement Standard Utility Allowance**

This rule implements a reduction in the Food Supplement Standard Utility Allowance following the expiration of a waiver on April 1, 2011. The reduction originally was to have occurred effective April 1, 2011, but adoption of the final rule was delayed. As of August 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011, the FSUA will be reduced to \$634. The Department will restore benefits to those households that had their benefits reduced in April 2011.

The following changes are proposed:

FS-555-5 page 6 Decreases the FSUA to \$634, effective August 1, 2011.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF INTEGRATED ACCESS AND SUPPORT
FOOD SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM**

TANF/PaS: N/A Med: Appendix C 7 CFR 273.9(d)

Section: **FS-555-5**
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INCOME AND DEDUCTIONS

Deductions

UTILITY EXPENSES:

Households that incur expenses for heating or air-conditioning bills that are separate and apart from rent/mortgage bills must be given the Full Utility Standard Allowance (FSUA).

Households not eligible for the FSUA may claim actual expenses or, if eligible for it, elect to use the non-heat utility allowance (NHUA).

Effective August 1, 2011 the Full Standard Utility Allowance (FSUA) is \$634.

A household that incurs these expenses on an irregular basis is eligible to use the full standard allowance between billing periods. A household which lives in a private rental unit which has central utility meters and charges the household only for excess heating or air conditioning costs shall not be permitted to use the full FSUA. When someone outside the household is paying the entire cost of heating/cooling, and the payment is excluded as a vendor payment, the FSUA shall not be allowed.

NOTE: Assistance from HEAP or ECIP automatically entitles the household to the FSUA. This policy is retroactive to 10/90.

Effective October 1, 2002, households living in a public housing unit which has central utility meters and are charged only for excess utility costs are allowed the FSUA.

SHARED RESIDENCE:

Each household in a shared FSUA situation is eligible for the full standard. Effective October 1, 2002, there is no proration of this standard. (See FS-555-5, page 7 for shared residence proration rules in NHUA and PHUA situations.)

DO NOT allow the FSUA when utility expenses are included in the rent, unless the household anticipates receiving assistance from HEAP or ECIP (use the Excess Shelter Deduction Handbook for guidance).